



2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings MT 59105

11/4/2020

DRAFT EA NOTICE

TO: Environmental Quality Council*
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality*
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks*
 Director's Office
 Parks Division
 Fisheries Division
 Wildlife Division
 Comm Ed Division
 Lands Section
 Design & Construction
 Legal Unit
 Regional Supervisors
John Tubbs, Governor's Office*
Dave Parker, Communications Director, Governor's Office*
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office*
Montana Audubon Council*
Montana Wildlife Federation*
Montana State Library*
James Domino, DNRC*
William Semmens, MDT*
Bob Gibson*
Brett French*
Montana Environmental Information Center*
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation*
FWP Commissioner Colton*
Montana Parks Association/Our Montana (land acquisition projects)
Matt Wolcott, DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office*
Musselshell County Commissioners*
Other Local Interested People or Groups*
* (Sent electronically)



DECISION NOTICE
Musselshell River McCleary Channel Restoration Project

Prepared by Region 5, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
November 2, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to assist a landowner by funding work to reconnect and reactivate a 1.5-mile section of the Musselshell River that was lost to an avulsion in 2018. Funds from a Future Fisheries and USFWS grant to FWP will be used as cost share for the landowner who will implement the project.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

The proposal has been analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). FWP is required to assess the impacts of the proposed action to the human and natural environment as directed by MEPA. Under the MEPA process, a 15-day public comment period ran from September 28, 2020 through October 12, 2020. It was published twice in the Roundup Record Tribune, Billings Gazette and Helena Independent Record, and was posted on the MTFWP web page.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

There were no issues raised during the comment period.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment period four emails were received, with the respondents supporting the project. Two supported continued efforts for similar habitat projects. One respondent desired increased access through the Open Fields upland bird program as part of the project.

DECISION

After review of this proposal and public comment, it is my decision to provide funding and support to the landowner for this important aquatic and fisheries habitat project.

Barb S Beck
Regional Supervisor, MTFWP Region 5
Billings, Montana